

Testimony in Support of HB 799

To: Chair Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Antonio Hayes, and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 799, which seeks to secure continued funding for the Bobcat Innovation Launchpad. As a participant in this program, I have had the privilege of gaining invaluable experiences that have significantly impacted my personal and professional growth.

The Bobcat Innovation Launchpad provided me with an incredible opportunity to engage with professionals and subject matter experts in the fields of technology and entrepreneurship. Through this program, I was exposed to real-world applications of the skills I have been developing in the classroom, which gave me a deeper understanding of the innovation and business development processes. It was more than just an educational experience—it was a chance to develop meaningful connections with industry leaders and peers, which has been instrumental in expanding my network and broadening my career possibilities.

One of the most impactful aspects of the program was the hands-on learning environment. I was able to collaborate with a diverse group of individuals, all working toward common goals in innovation and entrepreneurship. This experience not only enhanced my teamwork and leadership skills, but it also gave me a clearer vision of what it takes to succeed in today's fast-paced, ever-evolving job market. The Launchpad's focus on cultivating entrepreneurial thinking and practical skills is something that is rare at small, regional universities like Frostburg State, and it has been invaluable to my personal growth.

I urge you to continue supporting the Bobcat Innovation Launchpad, as it provides access to opportunities that can change lives and empower students like myself to thrive in our careers. Thank you for considering this testimony in support of HB 799.

Sincerely,
Caleb Heller
Frostburg State University